FREEZE-BUSTING ACTION TO AID OLD PEOPLE

THE EIGHT for the lowest-paid of all, the old age pensioners, has been carried into the industrial battlefield. All over Britain workers' representatives are beginning to talk of mass industrial action next Wednesday, the day of the TUC lobby of parliament in support of a demand for a £10 pension for single people and £16 for a married couple.

The demand for opinion in favour of strikes to support the lobby has started in South Yorkshire. On the multimillion-pound construction site in Sheffield, the Anchor Steels project at Scunthorpe, shop stewards have proposed a total stoppage in support of the pensioners.

Alreadly they have been promised support from the stewards at the Drax power station site near Selby, by the South Eastern branch of the National Union of Mineworkers and by the Kibbworth branch of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Greg Douglas, chairman of the Joint Sites Committee at Anchor, spoke to Socialist Worker about his committee's reasons for calling the strike. "After a lot of consideration we thought that this business of lobbying parliament never achieves what is intended," he said. "We think that on this issue, on the plight of the old age pensioners, we should all be prepared to get up and do something physical."

DEMAND

"We've had a hell of a lot of responses from the lads as well as a lot of requests to do something concrete for the OAPs. The demonstration should be an indication to our national union leaders and to the TUC of the type of support that trade unionists and working-class people are prepared to give them if they are prepared to give us a lead and make the demand for a better standard of living for the old age pensioners."

Greg Douglas is not in the least perturbed that the demonstration will occur in the middle of the government's wage (and pensions) freeze.

"The pensioners' problems," he said, "have got to be carried forward by those who can fight the freeze. I feel that the 90-day freeze should prompt us to demand of our national officials that they look after the OAPs and the lower-paid workers."

A lot of the full-time officials are hiding instead behind the TUC policy that the lobby of parliament is enough and that all we should be prepared to give at the moment. Think of the number of times they have gone to conferences and national meetings, speaking behind closed doors about the disgraceful situation the OAPs are in, whispering behind locked doors about the problem. Some of them can earn more in a day than the pensioners get in a week. They sit in moral judgement on what support can be given, and it leaves me absolutely disillusioned. I personally feel that the time for talking behind locked doors is finished. Let's have the doors thrown open, let's have them shouting and getting out there to the trade unionists and let's have a better leadership."

Let's have a policy and say to the government: We have the power: we want for the pensioners £10 a week now, plus rent for widows and £16 for couples.

There are signs that other workers' representatives, sickened by the cynical £10 bonus promised to the pensioners by Heath, are preparing to act in the same spirit.

SUPPORT

On 9 November 22 shop stewards representing 1500 maintenance workers on the escalators and lifts of London Underground voted unanimously to recommend their workers to strike for 24 hours on 22 November in support of the old age pensioners.

Ralph Pinder, the men's convenor, told Socialist Worker: "The government should stop making pitiful resolutions and get on with the action. The pensioners have got to be fought for industrially.

"Vic Swift, the AUEW's North London District Organiser, says that his office, and that of the South London district, has sent out circulars to their stewards calling for maximum support for the lobby."

Vic Swift thinks there is every chance of large-scale walk-outs from some of the big engineering works in North and West London. The AUEW circular makes it plain that such action will have union support.

by PETER INGHAM

Picture: MIKE COHEN

"By the time they've got all the prices up, they won't have given us anything." That's the opinion of 70-year-old Stanley Barnes on the government's £10 handout.

Mrs Barnes is a retired chairwoman with osteo-arthritis. Her doctor says she will never walk again. She lives with her husband in Shoreham, east London. Mr Barnes is in his eighties. Living on the present pension is hard. "We need a lot more," says Mrs Barnes.

HELP US STEP UP ANTI-TORY FIGHT...
THE most obvious reason why Nixon won a second term as president is that he was able to conclude a major election in which most people were a breath of relief after the difficulties of the past.

This gives him a large amount of credit to bank on. He was able to pull off these deals precisely because the right wing is now more or less in his back pocket whereas for a Democrat this would have been more difficult because it would have been attacked as a surrender to 'Communism.'

A more fundamental reason for Nixon's victory is that American workers have recently taken a beating they did not expect. Inflation means that it is no longer so easy to win wage increases. The threat of unemployment is high and redundancies are common.

With increased productivity and speed-up, these have lived the lives of the working class insecure and frustrated, leading to a certain conservatism among workers com-

YORK NEWS

by Sy Landy
National secretary of the International Socialist of the United States

NIXON: He has the right wing securely in his pocket

The detailed analysis of the Nixon election shows just how half of the manual workers and 85 per cent of the blacks who voted for Nixon. But the overall turnout in the election was 54 per cent.

The Democrats' majority of 200,000 in this class and in the votes was much narrower than in the past, and most of those who voted for McGovern probably did so without enthusiasm.

Another reason why McGovern was regarded as risky by both black and white workers was that he took the risk of changing his policy on just about everything during his campa-

RISKY

The attitude of most workers seems to be to hold on to what they have, and not let their position get any worse. They have the feeling that Nixon is not a very respectable character, but on the other hand they cannot afford to lose money any more in a situation which might get very much worse.

As far as black people are concerned: understood the actions of blacks over the past few years—the riots and the support given in black communities to groups like the Black Panthers—was a fairly constant vote for the Democratic Party. For most black people, workers and unemployed, life is too insecure to risk any kind of risks, and in the past that meant they voted for the party which seemed to give them concrete gains, the Democrats.

In the Democratic primary this year there was among the stable working class a great deal of support for Humphrey, partly because of what they thought he had done for blacks in the past, but partly also because they felt he was a safer candidate.

Black theatres McGovern because they have been promised so much politically, not only by the nation's leaders and in a different way by the Black Nationalist leaders, that they have temporarily become more moderate: they don't believe any more in these promises, they try to hold on to the little they have.

In the United States it is that when they do weep, when they really have their backs to the wall, they erupt very viciously. The thought in the United States is that the black movement has broken down. That the black movement is a threat to be more violent than in any other country in the world, and in the United States it is almost a product of the workers' conservatism.

CHIEF ANALYST, the former Nigerian finance minister, has been awarded $256,000 damages against The Economist, which had published an article implying that he was behind the world crisis in Nigeria at the beginning of 1971.

A thousand of workers were involved in these strikes, and the president and general secretary of the Nigerian Trade Union Congress—the most left-of-the-middle union in Nigeria—were jailed.

The article discounted the influence of the Nigerian civil union and the national unity of workers to organise their own strikes, implying that the strikes had been ferried by Awojolu to further his "liberalisation" of the country's political scene.

Awojolu has in fact been the most successful of the trade unionists in collaborating with General Gowon's military regime, not only the outlawed unions and jailed trade union leaders, and he did not have enough difficulty in proving this.

Meanwhile, without Awojolu's help, the Nigerian working class continues to strengthen its struggle. On 31 December the postal workers union went on strike over a 90 per cent wage increase. Women in the Lagos spinning mills,甘

DELEGATES from the International Socialist recently attended an international conference of socialist and communist parties in the United States and Canada, with the aim of establishing a stronger left in the mass labour movement's reservations about the future.

The party's executive had voted 18-1 for a resolution "preferring" McGovern in the 1972 election.

The conference was attended by 16 groups from 10 countries—Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, USA, West India and Japan.

The conference discussed the international political and economic situation with reference to Nixon's visit to China and the extension of the Common Market. They also reported on and discussed the common work of revolutionaries in different countries and in particular the work of revolutionary socialist parties in the trade unions.

Under these conditions, elections clearly differ widely from one country to another, there was a useful exchange of views in it is clear that in many places revolutionaries are making a great effort to establish a base in the labour movement. The Social Democratic Party no longer runs its own candidates for the presidency. The Social Democrats have been in government in the past 10 years, and for the past three have been the dominant party. In the campaign, they are giving much attention to the quality of Sweden's economic and social programmes, and to the question of social welfare.

The Social Democrats have been in the government for the past six years, and for the past three have been the dominant party. In the campaign, they are giving much attention to the quality of Sweden's economic and social programmes, and to the question of social welfare.

The Social Democrats have been in the government for the past six years, and for the past three have been the dominant party. In the campaign, they are giving much attention to the quality of Sweden's economic and social programmes, and to the question of social welfare.

The Social Democrats have been in the government for the past six years, and for the past three have been the dominant party. In the campaign, they are giving much attention to the quality of Sweden's economic and social programmes, and to the question of social welfare.
COURTAULD SPINNING MILLS IN LANCASHIRE

by Steve Emmans
Ffynne
FOUR YEARS AGO factories of publicity greeted the opening of Courtauld's £7 million woolen textiles plant in Skelmersdale.
This was the biggest factory to be built in this part of Lancashire for 50 years. It was a claim. Here was a desperately needed employment in an area renowned for swollen dole queues.
And last week factories of particulars surrounded the management's 'final decision' to shut the door, decamping all 1000 workers this week. That talk while goes on about a future based on any acceptance of all management without question. Courtauld's Skelmersdale was more than just a razor's edge.
They are in a mood of disillusion and bewilderment. For the press has by and large been a one-sided argument that it is all their own fault, brought about by labour unrest and Merssery's militancy.

CHARGES

But the truth of the situation is that Courtauld's has been spinning lies rather than weaving cotton. For the charge is that labour unrest bears no relation to reality.
Courtauld's Northern Weaving Division Kerr's of Skelmersdale could in no sense be described as 'rational'. There has been only one factory-wide strike of six weeks in 1969. Since then there have been two sectional lock outs and in February this year an overtime ban was introduced to prevent lay-offs.
It is only two months since a shop stewards committee was set up in the factory. And because of the shift system, it takes three days to summon a meeting. Management permission is still required.

Construction of the Skelmersdale factory and another modern cotton weaving plant to compete with cheap imports was announced in 1966. Courtauld's were prepared to spend £20 million as an act of faith in British industry. But the £20 million did not come solely from the government or from shareholders. They were generously assisted by development funds. 45 per cent of the cost was borne by the taxpayer in the form of regional development grants.

SUBSIDY

And Courtauld's got a further government handout of £1.50 a week as a direct subsidy to the wages of every worker. Courtauld's chairman Lord Kerron of Skelmersdale had set up a fund to protect the British textile industry which would soon have new plants freed of competition and on the road to profitability.

Even before the factory opened there were warnings of dire consequences. Courtauld's competitors. The government would not stop cheap imports. The plant would be a white elephant.

And from day one Skelmersdale went sour. The 198 ultra-modern Sulfer looms were never moved out of the storage sheds, far less unwrapped and installed.

Workers outside the Skelmersdale plant: they get the blame.

Looms brought into production were beset by all sorts of problems from design to maintenance. They broke down regularly, putting the workers back on the wages.

On each and every occasion that there was a dispute with management, Courtauld's brought out the press with a view to extracting total submission from trade unions and workers. Working people would pay the price for what other manufacturers described as Courtauld's monumental error to compete with cheap imports.

And as year followed year Courtauld's looked for a higher price.

Even if Courtauld's do shut the place down, it will not be that firm's directors and shareholders who will pay the price. £3 million of the £7 million cost of Skelmersdale was paid by the government. Regulations require only that the firm does not sell or move the machinery for two years after government grants have been paid.

If Courtauld's were to sell the machinery tomorrow, then all it would have to do is pay tax on the profits if the machines are sold for more than their depreciated value. The whole sorry saga is the inevitable results of the inevitable trends to cut costs and policies which cannot create extra jobs, and only give handouts to speed rationalization.

And by juggling with its own accounts Courtauld's has already ensured that its estimated £1 million losses at Skelmersdale are covered many times over. In the company year ending March 1971,Courtauld's paid £15 million tax on its £41 million pre-tax profits. In the year ending March 1972 only £5.7 million tax was paid on increased pre-tax profits of £45.6 million.


Killing of the week

Equal pay: Newcastle sets the pace

by Sandra Peers

NEWCASTLE TRADES COUNCIL last week voted to launch a campaign on Tyneside for equal opportunities and equal pay for women, and to make an interim order under the Equal Pay Act.

The government is obliged by the spirit, if not the letter, of the law to legally ensure women to workers on equal men's rates by the end of 1973, but this would plainly conflict with their wage freeze policy. At present women's average hourly rates are only 65% of men's, and it will take 10 years to achieve equal pay at this rate.

All trade union branches, trades councils, women's groups and other organisations of the labour movement on Tyneside will be invited to affiliate to the campaign. Activities will include speaking at meetings on the case for equal opportunities and on the details of the Equal Pay Act. Campaigning workers on the tricks the employers are using to avoid equal pay, persuading women to join trade unions and supporting them in struggles.

It is hoped to set up a special group of parents, students and trade unionists (especially teachers) to work on practical proposals to combat discrimination in education and training.

A meeting of the Tyneside Socialist Women's Action group, attended by more than 30 women including stewards from the local Tyneside, the Civil Service and the Ever-Ready factory, enthusiastically received these proposals and agreed that its first contribution to the campaign would be to publish a pamphlet putting the details and facts of the Act.

Readers wishing to participate in the campaign should contact Sandra Peers, 7 St Mary's Avenue, Newcastle 2, Telf. 617117.

The Prices Swindle

JUST two days after the Heath government announced the 90 day wage freeze, the two giant flour monopolies were getting themselves into shape to watch through the phoney prices standstill in which the Tories have pledged their latest attempt to drive down working class living standards.

Rank-Hovis-MacDougall who (along with all the major bread companies) are claiming an arbitrary 10% price increase in the pipeline, simply announced that they were going to 'test' the freeze to prove that their imported raw materials costs would continue to rise. This would increase flour on price and therefore bread would be 'inflationary' under the terms of the so-called counter-inflation legislation.
The Times was likely to find acceptable. They repeatedly claimed that the public would have easy access to the cheaper and better bread and bakery firms just stand idle by?

The answer is that they would not. They would simply extend their highly profitable activities to reducing quality and production costs in pursuit of that most cherished of things, a higher rate of return on capital.

Scuppered

Their plans for making dystropic flour and bread quality first came to the fore with the public being used to feed the millions successfully swapped the phoney prices standstill in 1969. The 'national loaf' fairly decent standards which had been introduced in 1962 were too much for the farmers who were fed up with the plan. Further down the food chain, high extraction flour became the norm, and began to move towards a lower price as a result.

It is now that there is little possible worth in their words. Courtauld's have been found utterly inadequate by the inspection authorities and have been massively adopted throughout the milling industry as the norm. It is now that the much cheaper and more nutritious flour is being supplied, pure with breads and flours.

In fairness, that some millions of bakers thought otherwise was their own return on capital. They are doing it again.

Even the most 'rational' concern from unions and men will do nothing to save the plant. For the selfish and the methods and the methods are their own.

It is not if the government that there is too much on the world market for the workers do not need and want more and rentier and other cotton textile products. It is just that the government of production builds some of the factories that can produce more, but if they do not prove profitable they are closed.

A men and women at Skelmersdale are to fight for their survival they will have to organise now to stop Courtaulds moving away with plant, machinery and a large bag of publicly funded rug.

Killing of the week

October 29 to November 4: Shares in Distillers are at their highest levels ever. Expectations of the week's alcohol and chemicals, has slipped due to production difficulties over the report of the thalidomide children. Thyssen's was employe to stop further production of the drug, who were still refuses compensation payments. Distillers have announced the closure of a letter to a shareholder that the company's profits over the past year. The share winners in the four day on October 22nd until the company's profits at the beginning of the year. 

Nearly 1,000 workers are expected to be made redundant following the closure. Distillers' share in the company and on Tuesday shares rose up to another 4.5 per cent. At that time, Jack, Rank, and automatics were moved in a general in the House of Commons by the share winner. The debate was refused and shares of the company to reach the higher levels of 4.5 per cent. The company outlook of Speculators who bought on Monday sold £100 million worth of shares in Distillers at 4.5 per cent to reach the higher levels of £100 million.
WHAT WE THINK...

EVERY trade union owes a debt of gratitude to the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineer Workers for its firm stand in refusing to pay the fine and costs imposed by Sir John Donaldson's infamous National Labour Relations Board in the Goodyear case and in refusing to readmit the blackleg into membership.

Whatever criticisms may be made of the AUW leadership, and we have made some, there can be no shadow of a doubt that on this occasion it has acted correctly and courageously in the interests of the membership and of the trade working class. The contrast between this action and the wretched surrender of the TGWU leadership in similar circumstances is too plain to need emphasis.

Naturally, press and television have cast James Goody as the new David come to smite the giant Scanlon. However, this particular David goes into battle not in a lion's cloth like the original but clad in the whole armour of the law. His weapon is not a sling but the NIRC, the independent arbitration tribunal for police and public service machine of British capitalism. Every boss and every supporter of the bosses is on his side. So is every creep and every blackleg in our own class.

What is at stake is a very simple and very vital principle. It is whether the AUW—and hence every other union—can manage its affairs democratically and in accordance with the collective will of its members, by its own representatives of the members or whether the state, through the NIRC, can ride roughshod over the rules and the wishes of workers and thereby take away the interests of the employers. What is at stake is no less than the principle that union members, through elected representatives, should manage their affairs. James Goody, a former member of the union, was twice lapsed under rule for arrears of dues. He then went on to stake his job on defeat. To manage the affairs of the union, he was a union officer. In other words, he was a member of the union. He was a trade unionist, not a trade union. He was a走去 regulated organisation and that, of course, is what the Tory government and its NIRC intend the unions shall be.

ASSIST GOVERNMENT

Some charitably minded persons have suggested that there is a case for showing mercy to repentant sinners, even if the sinner is a capitalist. It may be so. But James Goody is not a repentant sinner. He is an exultant one.

He gambles in his record and openly admits that his purpose in going to the NIRC was to determine ‘whether the law of the land is supreme or the law of the union’. In plain words he is out to assist the government and the employers in shacking the unions and destroying those democratic rights that union members have won by two centuries of sacrifice and struggle.

The sheer effrontery of Goody and Donaldson staggered belief. Sir John Donaldson belongs to a London club, the Athenaeum, membership of which is much sought after by senior servants of our ruling class. This club has rules, very strict rules designed among other things to exclude unionists and union members. It is a subscription, payment of which is strictly enforced.

It is not difficult to imagine what Donaldson’s attitude would be an ex-member who had twice been thrown out for non-payment of his subscription, who had attacked and injured his fellow members at a critical time when they were in need of his solidarity, who had openly proclaimed that the purpose of the club and then had the insolence to demand to be re-admitted.

But then, of course, for Donaldson and his fellow AMLUs, this is only one link in a chain of trade unionists. If the Tories get away with this deadly attack on trade union rights, warned by the TUC, then a Paris or a Birmingham, or any other blackleg campaign, will make no doubt attempt to seize assets rather than imprisoned officers.

This must be resisted by industrial action, not just by AUW members but by all trade unionists. If the Tories get away with it this time they will redouble their efforts. A thousand Goodys will be produced. They can be beaten. They must be beaten. That is why all trade unionists must give all-out support to the AUW.

Commons touch

A FEVER of excitement is building up in the House of Commons about the new parliament buildings which are intended to house MPs in the late 1970s.

And no wonder. The architect’s report to the Select Committee of MPs who considered the designs last summer gives some ideas of the wonders that are to come.

Not only will each MP have his office and room for his secretary, not only will the number of bars and restaurants be doubled but, according to the report, ‘A swimming pool, gymnasium and changing rooms are provided in a self-contained unit... sauna and massage rooms are also provided. During recesses, a sliding wall can partition off a lobby leading to the north western tower, so that access to the swimming pool is possible directly from the podium.’

The architectural merits of the building, which are none, did not bother the MPs much. Julius Amery, a Minister in the Department of the Environment, said in evidence: ‘I do not want to push the claims of the environment beyond the comfort of the House or the convenience of the House more than is right and proper.’

One thing bothered MPs: security. Mr James Welldenbo, well beloved Labour MP for Erith and Crayford, asked anxiously: ‘Bearing in mind that parliament is often beset by demonstrators on tams, occasionally emotional, it is possible, it is not, to have several thousand people bursting through on to the floor of the chamber which you suggest to guard against that eventuality?’

The architect replied: ‘This is the recognition of the idea of the gallery which can be dropped between the towers.’

Mr Amery had another idea. ‘I think one of the ideas is that there would be a glass portico of iron railings on the north front downstairs, so that it could be brought down as necessary.’

The Committee were not satisfied. Their main recommendation for change in the design was: ‘Further security precautions are essential.’

Apart from ensuring that the public should not have any ‘unauthorised access’ to the place where they are represented, the Committee, with only three Tories voting against, approved the design.

Cooperation

MR GEORGE COOPER, the station superintendent at Britain’s least successful power station, Egham, near Selhy, Yorks, is a man who loves beating records. Last month he put a notice on the station’s board under the exhilarating heading: EGGBOROUGH, THE RECORD BREAKER.

No 2 machine, boasted the notice, had beaten the record for continuous running of a 500 Mw coal-fired unit. And the record for continuous running of an oil-fired unit.

More was to come. ‘It is estimated that by 31 October if we continue to run at our present average load the total number of KW hours continuously generated will be above that of the Fawley machine. This then is our next objective, and the next record which we are setting you to prove to be sufficient to obtain the next one in this list.’

Poor Mr Cooper was dismayed when he discovered, only a day after his cheerful message appeared on the notice board, that a notice had been scribbled over it: ‘Who are you trying to impress? It’s the us workers who gain your medals. Put your hand in your pocket and give us our due.’

A further message read: BRING UNIT 2 OFF NOW.

What worried the workers about Unit 2 was the continual steam leaks resulting from excessive pressure on valves. A worker who gets in the way of steam leaks suffers serious injury, if he is lucky.

The Ash and Dust section, singled out for special praise by Cooper, had, in fact, banned work on parts of Unit 2 which had become too dangerous. On Unit 4, three weeks before the notice went up, the oil pressure dropped, a flange opened and hydrogen started to leak out.

The leak lasted for five minutes, and five brigades were called out from Selby, Goole and Snainton. Fortunately, there was no explosion, and the flange was closed. The slightest spark during those five minutes would have blown many of the workers, and probably even Mr Cooper, sky high.

National fuzz

OUR Police in South London Department has been informed of the following facts.

1. Friday 13 October, International Socialists member Europe Singh arrested at 8.50 for putting up a Fight the Tories poster. Taken to Battersea Bridge Road police station, kept for three hours, questioned cosily about sabotage, incitement etc. Appeared in court next morning. Conditional discharge.

2. Monday 23 October, IS member Janet Winterbourne arrested for putting up Fight the Tories poster. Taken to Battersea Bridge Road police station. Woman contumable brought from home to search her. Appeared in court the next day. Fined £5.

3. On Wednesday 25 October, 10.44pm two IS members walking down Nightingale Road over the bridge near Wandsworth Common Station see three people and a uniformed police sergeant walking. A bucket of post stood beside them. Passing slowly, one of these two members notice a poster on the electricity control box near the four men. It advertised the case for voting for the National Front candidates in the following day’s local election.

Walking on, they notice another four NF posters on the bridge. They watch as another poster is affixed to the electricity control box. On a car drives up, picks up the nearest two posters. The poster-stickers continue on their way, unarrested.

6 COTTONS GDNS, LONDON E2 8DN
For 18 months nobody has worked on this building. It is a £5,000 monument to bloody-minded men.

Biggles!

There have been rumours flying around in top circles for several weeks now that a secret committee has been formed of representatives from government, army and police to deal with "security" in case of strikes. The rumour were confirmed in Biggleswade by former Police boss Stephen Hasting, who is Conservative and Rhododendron Front MP for Mid-Bedfordshire.

Speaking at a meeting of local shopkeepers and traders and, without knowing that Socialist Worker's man in Biggleswade was present, Mr Hasting declared: "I have heard that the government is taking steps against militant workers.

Police and government were caught out by the miners and the dockers, they have organized special flying squads to deal with picketing and striking.

Mr Hastings said that police had to deal with "quite a brain" behind the strikes. "It is only a small group of evil men behind the whole thing."

He also made it clear that soldiers should and would be involved in the operation.

Dr Clifford Allen, the well-known consultant psychiatrist, has an interesting view on the treatment of drunks. He told, he writes in the Medical Journal, Pulse, to be sent to labour camps.

In Russia, the doctor points out, the camps have a "magic effect" on young people who had indulged in petty crime. When the men were "conditioned to work", they gave up further trouble.

"If only we had such camps," mourned the doctor, "the country might be very useful for those considered unlikely to benefit from boredom."

The suffering

Political prisoners that follow. In my opinion, a hundred political prisoners a day is not enough. We should look back to the period in which women and children toiled in the mines and were killed by the civil war."

In particular Mr Farrow drew attention to the locations of printing presses which produce left-wing literature. He made it quite clear that the army special branch was kept fully informed of all changes of address and "would be ready to move when the time came."

He was not referring to the use of a laundry van.

Jail tails

Built-in obsolescence seems to be the rule in prison work. Matty Lyons, former chairman of the Workers' Party of Scotland, who was sentenced to 24 years in prison last year for alleged involvement in bank robberies, is on hunger strike in Perth prison because the authorities will not allow him to do his work properly.

Matty is a tailor by trade, and refused to make clothes at the rate of six per week which brings in the regular prison pittance of 38p a week.

He made four a week, and received 25p.

This was not good enough for the authorities, who told him to make six a week or transfer to the department which makes special protective clothing for green warfare.

He refused to do either, was confined to his cell, and is now on hunger strike.

The scandal of cancer research

Twenty per cent of people in Britain die of cancer. This means that unless some cure can be found there are more than 10 million people now walking around who will be killed by this disease.

Yet Dr Robert Ratnoff, a scientific adviser to the Prime Minister, has said there is no further money to be allocated to research in this field. He makes this proposal despite the huge amount of existing provisions.

Which means that spends £2,000 million a year on the armed forces, is not spending even £110 million on cancer research. Much more scientific research is needed to prevent the new diabolical ways of destroying life that goes into discovering new ways to kill.

I find it difficult to believe that had the government shown the same urgency over cancer research as they have over nuclear research, then a cure would have been found years ago.

The cruelty

But the supermarket chain for which he worked gave an ultimatum: come back to work or you're sacked. This is another taste of life for the shop... Now he's dead.

The specialist, presumably, knew what he was talking about. For treatment to be of full benefit, six months' treatment is usually required for the cure, according to the schedulepatients.

The fact that the patient had failed to show up may have had little to do with the difference between life and death. It is, therefore, not completely unrealistic to expect the present government to take any action that will allow such patients to get the necessary treatment and convalescence.

A similar scheme operated in the late 1930s when arms and munitions factories in the armed forces were guaranteed their supplies. The government also set aside funds to prevent the disease of all the men who were not allowed convalescence.

Nevertheless, some might think that the cabinet could be influenced by sordid financial considerations, the waste of public money. The man who had cancer of the bladder had treatment at Hammersmith that costs the taxpayer around £1,000 and the supermarket's threat prevented the full benefit from this costly treatment being gained. But even on these grounds the government is not culpable.

As with some other things at the present time, militancy is the only answer. A policy of no sackings should be implemented and men who are kept from perishing on the shop floor but in shops and factories should be housed in the houses of those who are unable to defend themselves.

That lie in was against the law

There are people suffering from cancer who have been driven into action. To some of them, another anxiety may be added. In this climate of high unemployment, some firms are reluctant to keep alive individuals they regard as hazards.

I know of the ease of a middle-aged man, suffering from cancer of the bladder, who became a patient at the London hospital. After five days' course of treatment, a doctor told him to have six months' convalescence.

Men in hard hats

Senior members of the British Labour movement often have their way only when they keep out of sight of their jobs. Take Mr Ewan Carr, Mr Carr is the labour officer for Cubitts officials on the "World's End" site, where the workers are on official strike over basic pay.

As labour officer Mr Carr appeared as a management witness in the regional conciliation panel, three weeks ago, which found in favour of the workers.

Brother Carr, incidentally, is a member of the housing committee of Lambeth Borough Council and a Labour candidate for the next Greater London Council election.

In the pink

A report in the Nashville Tennessean on 22 October highlights the solution of a serious problem for the American birth control authorities. HRT Ravnoff, who is head of Aid, which stands for Agency for International Development has authorized the export and sale of 14 million colourless condoms to undeveloped countries.

The grey condoms, it seems, had a 'lack-lustre' reception. But officials in the Orient had, according to Ravnoff, "shown more interest in the coloured condoms than in the grey ones. You should see the interest in their faces when they saw the many colours the displays brought smiles and requests for some samples.

Mr Ravnoff is not disturbed by the reports that officials visiting remote Indian villages have been surprised to find the children playing with clusters of multi-coloured, finger-shaped balloons.
Another big step forward

From January International Socialism journal will move from quarterly to monthly publication. This change marks a significant step forward in the development of the International Socialists and their contribution to Marxist theory.

The new journal, with a new design and format, will reflect the development of the British and international workers' movement. Monthly publication will enable us to write in depth on the contemporary political scene.

Although the journal will retain the theoretical publication of the IS group, it will find space for debate, comment and polemic on the important issues of the day.

The price of the monthly journal will be 15p.

Sinking roots in

IN YORKSHIRE the fight against the Tories kicked off this year with the miners' strike. All over the region, miners who have been making bitter grievances for years took to the picket lines.

The support they received from other workers in the region was fantastic. In factories, factory workers volunteered to give pounds each week to the miners funds and the number of TGWU drivers who offered to picket the Yorkshire power stations was tremendous.

The picketing was often tense and, in the face of blatant police provocation, violent. On 3 February a scab lorry driver drove into Fred Mathers' car outside the Keadby power station.

Fred Mathers' lorry was in Trigalgar Square on 6 February, Joe Holmes, the president of the Kent miners, read out a moving letter from Ellen Matthews, his mother. She said: "I myself have always been an active member of the labour movement ... it is vital that you fight to keep the trade unions free, because if you lose this battle it will be returned to the last century. My sons who are left are both active in the trade union movement and are involved in the fight just as Freddie was involved in the fight against the Tories.

DELAY

With thorough official warfare against the miners, a bold and intelligent step was taken to another battle in the new year.

There are few illusions in the national situation now. The government's orders to delay presenting the claim, but even more to delay any move from a full-scale strike there is still likely to be some time.

The miners' fighting spirit seems to have spread to all the broad layers of workers throughout the country. The flying picket tactics which worked so well in January and February have been imitated to great effect by the Humberdike dockers and by Yorkshire building workers.

Miners' wives have also been on picket lines and have played a key role in organizing the fight against the Tory Rent Act.

Since the beginning of October, thousands of tenants have been on partial rent strike in places as large as Sheffield down to small towns like Barnsley and Knottingley. Even now, as the Labour Party's opposition crumbles, more tenants are organizing to fight the increases now or the next time round.

In Rotherham and Sheffield, the majority of council tenants have been on rent strike for the last five weeks. In Rotherham, tenants on strike at Canklow, Kimberworth Park, Rookingham and Wingfield have organized themselves through a trades council tenants association action committee that run a big demonstration, with speakers from the NUM, two weeks ago.

At Knottingley, just outside Rotherham, tenants organized a rent strike in two weeks which has spread to the neighboring areas of Anston and Dinnington.

Tenants who have been getting intimidating letters from the council are now picketing the council offices and organizing for possible evictions.

They have the backing of the Yorkshire NUM, which has committed miners to industrial action in the event of evictions. Knotting, a mining town, may become one of the first towns where united action of tenants and trade unions succeeds in defeating the council.

In Knottingley, tenants organized a daily picket of the rent office on one of the estates in order to make the strike effective.

In York, five tenants' associations have sprung up over the last few months to fight the rent rises. The trades council set up a tenants and trades unions co-ordinating committee.

The movement is still spreading within different towns from estate to estate and from town to town.

Tenants in Goole, Dewsbury and Doncaster are now beginning to organize for the next increase, when the movement will be even stronger as people realize the rent arrears only just began and the only way to fight it is to organize on the estates and in the work places where the real muscle lies.

SPECIAL OFFER

Special bargain subscription rates will be available until 31 January 1973:

A six-month subscription to IS journal for 80p, including postage (normal rate £1.05). OR

A combination offer of IS journal AND Socialist Worker: a six-month subscription to both for £2.25, including postage (normal rate £3.05).

Rent Act rebel tears up party card

The Labour council in Doncaster decided last week to implement the rent rises. One councillor, Peter Duffield, a member of the Engineering Workers' Union at British Rail, was so disgusted with the decision that he tore up his Labour Party card.

Before the May elections, the Labour group on the council had only a majority of two. They campaigned on the issue of the Rent Act and got a sweeping majority. In 10 years out of a possible 11: "It was so blatant obviously that they had won the war because of their stand on the Rent Act, that they had to hold out until the pressure was so great that they would have to change otherwise than they would have lost credibility to the electors."

Publicly, the Labour group gave an excuse for implementing the Act that it would be better for them to have control of the council rather than a Tory commissioner.

"The letter is what I would advise," said Councillor Duffield. "They have nothing to lose and a lot to gain. Tenants should mass together and show Doncaster Council how to defeat this pernicious Act.

The real truth of the matter is that they were using the Act to gain popular support, but it has backfired in a big way now.

When I stood for election, I stood on the doorstep and told the many tenants in my ward that I would totally oppose this Act and that the Labour group in Doncaster would not implement Tory unfair rents. Therefore when the council implemented the Act, as a socialist and the elected representative of many council tenants I had no choice but to resist and carry on the battle. In Doncaster council and through the tenants' associations."

"The council have only a few choices, he said. They could either fight the tenants' associations and go on rent strikes."

The letter is what I would advise," said Councillor Duffield. "They have nothing to lose and a lot to gain. Tenants should mass together and show Doncaster Council how to defeat this pernicious Act.

MILITANT

JOHN CARNEY, NUM branch president, confirmed that he first came into contact with Socialist Worker when he read the truth about the situation in Ireland. The English newspaper gave a biased view but in Socialist Worker you find out what is really happening.

On any item you never have to read between the lines. It's a straightforward paper. What I also like is that it speaks out against permanent officials in my own union, the NUM. Having permanent officials is like being under a dictatorship.

Once they are in there for life and don't have to worry about elections. They are elected, but if every five years, the right men might get in. Socialist Worker has the right ideas on this.

FRED HOODGSON, NUM Yorks council delegate, Prince of Wales colliery, Houghton: All the way we were discussing the press as a whole and theFully came to the conclusion that Socialist Worker was the only paper giving factual reports of what is going on in industry. It is the only paper which has really taken up the fight on the Industrial Relations Act and the tenants' struggles. We are all looking forward to the time when it is daily.
BRADFORD was once one of Britain's major industrial centres, when the local wool textile industry dominated the world market. Today the city crisis of British capitalism. Rising unemployment, new hotels and office blocks are shutting up in speculators' bonanzas. And black workers are treated as scapegoats for the problems that capitalism is causing for working people.

There are about 30,000 Pakistanis, Indians, and West Indians in Bradford. Many Pakistani workers were recruited to Bradford by local textile employers looking for cheap, unskilled and unorganised labour.

In the mills they are subjected to low wages and sweatshop conditions, and have been ignored by their own trade union, the Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers Union. Only unofficial action has won any gains for the workers.

Now the textile industry is in rapid decline, and in the last few years the industry locally has lost more than 2,000 jobs.

Dole queues

At the same time, the number of people receiving dole has increased, and more than 200 workers were sacked in one afternoon at the Cliffe Engineering plant in Holbeck. Grandpart, part of the Associated Engineering Group, has announced that as many as 3,000 workers will be laid off in the area ever since Arnold Weinstock's reign at GEC-AEI began, the English Electrics plant at Bradford has been persistently threatened with closure.

The lengthening dole queues are new being used by racists to turn white workers against black.

Leading the racist campaign has been the Bradford and Darwen branch of the National Front. Last year, the local Tory Party in less lurid terms. His anti-working class policies are clearly allied to theirs.

When the Tories voted in 1965 to cut council house building they had in their hands a report by the British Housing Association which said 40,000 houses in Bradford (two-fifths of the city) were either unfit to live in or would be within 10 years.

But the Tories did not resume house building until last year. Meanwhile a new 200-room hotel for visiting businessmen is being built in the city centre. Even more grotesque, a new conference hotel has recently been completed and work has begun on what will be the biggest police headquarters outside Scotland Yard.

The Labour government, to which the Tories are appealing in the hope of gaining back the seats they lost in the 1964 election, is now a party of the old capitalist order. It is a reflection of the fact that the Labour Party, like the Tories, is now a party of the old capitalist order.

The struggle for socialism can only be won by the working class, but other sections of society are always at the service of the bourgeoisie. The struggle for socialism is not just a question of winning power, but of changing the structure of society itself. This means that the working class must take control of the means of production, and use this control to build a new society.

The struggle for socialism can only be won by the working class, but other sections of society are always at the service of the bourgeoisie. The struggle for socialism is not just a question of winning power, but of changing the structure of society itself. This means that the working class must take control of the means of production, and use this control to build a new society.

The struggle for socialism can only be won by the working class, but other sections of society are always at the service of the bourgeoisie. The struggle for socialism is not just a question of winning power, but of changing the structure of society itself. This means that the working class must take control of the means of production, and use this control to build a new society.
Councillor David Skinner: "We will go to privy to stop a housing commissioner taking over."

CLAY CROSS Labour-controlled urban district council may soon be unique. For this small north Derbyshire town is likely to be the last bastion of the Labour Party's unwinnable fight against the government's rent increases brought in by the Housing Finance Act.

As Labour councillors in nearby Chesterfield, in Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster actively attempt to sabotage the rent strikes being fought by the tenants' associations, Clay Cross councillors have held to their promises.

**PROFIT**

1500 tenants in the town pay no increased rent because the council have not raised the rate. No tenants' associations are necessary at this stage, in the view of the councillors, (a view not shared by the local International Socialists because there is no need to organise a rent strike. But Councillor David Skinner, Secretary of the local Labour Party and brother of left Labour MP Denis Skinner, says that by the method of accounting required by the Tory's Housing Act, the council owes approximately £4 on each council dwelling. A month ago the government gave notice of its intention to seek, to recover this money which, the councillors rightly argue, is required so that the Tory Chancellor can pocket a profit made at the tenants' expense.

But the 11 councillors say they will risk surcharge and if necessary imprisonment to prevent the government's commissioners from taking over Clay Cross council houses.

"How can I pay a surcharge, when some weeks my take home pay is less than £200 says David Skinner."

The councillors are prepared for the arrival of the commissioner. Street committees are being formed after the first one was set up in the street where Arthur Wellon, the leader of the Labour party, lives. Places are indicated the 'no-go' areas have been printed on each council dwelling.

A stand-by committee of the Labour Party has been formed and food-speaker van tour the estates from time to time informing the tenants of the progress of the struggle. Support has been pledged by the North East Derbyshire Labour Party and Dronfield Trades and Labour Council.

**DANGER**

Tory opposition in Clay Cross takes the form of a ratepayers' body, the Residents Association. David Skinner argues that a tenants' association formed to fight the rent increases would be easily infiltrated by those who would like to weaken the opposition and split the tenants from the councillors.

Active street committees are certainly necessary to organise and involve the tenants in the struggle. For the defence of the tenants involved in the prison sewer the Woodville, the tenants are the only ones to go it alone.

Local unions and national executive rejected at the recent annual conference a clause which pledged general assistance to those councillors who resisted rent increases.

**ISOLATED**

David Skinner argues that a united leadership, in such an eventuality, could not be built by a non-political tenants' association. But socialists organisations and trade unionists would have to be brought into such a struggle to prevent the street committees from becoming isolated if they are required to go it alone.

The right has been forestalled by the councillors' magnificent example in refusing to implement the Tory Housing Act. Their deeds show the collaboration of the public interest of self-seeking Labour leaders who are implementing Tory policies.

The arrival of the housing commissioner will be the real trial of the councillors, David Skinner thinks he will probably come out of it, but whatever happens, he maintains, will be sold in their resistance.

THE black people of South London are angry. The conviction of four young black social workers at the Old Bailey on 11 November has set off a chain reaction of fury.

"What with all this fun about minister of defence, what are the black worker told Socialist Worker, 'no chance points out that I can't go out at night without the fear of being beaten up by policemen and charged with assault'."

The four men are Winston Trew, George Griffiths, Sterling Christie and Constantine Boucher. They are all members of the Panblack, a self-help organisation set up two years ago to assist the education of black children in South East London.

On 16 March this year they went to a meeting in North London and returned by tube. At about 11 p.m. they arrived at Kennington underground station. What happened then was disputed in the long court case which ended last week. Everyone agreed that the men were intercepted by seven or eight members of the new railway police 'anti-mugging' squad.

**Signed**

A fight took place, and the four men were taken to Kennington Lane police station. They were kept there most of the night, and Alleged to leave only after four had signed confessions. But in fact a large number of mugging offences in the area, which the police until that time had been unable to solve.

The men were charged with a total of 17 charges. All were charged with assaulting expressman Constance, Cliff, Bates, Mooney and Sergeant Cowan, and Constables North, Chapman and Ridley and the police station.

The police story was that they had seen the men attempting to pick the pockets of a man on the platform and then of another man on the escalator. They had moved in, arrested the men, had resisted bitterly and assaulted the police officers.

**Defend**

The only evidence for all this was the word of the police officers. Neither of the 'victims' of the alleged robberies was produced by the police nor could the police explain to the courts why they asked to interview the man on the escalator whose wallet was so neatly picked.

The men's story was different. They had, they said, just reached the top of the escalator when they were 'jumped' by a gang of white men. "I blamed jumping", they explained, is not uncommon in South London. When one of them, the police officer, asked if that was the only reply from the 'victims', artfully said: 'Fuck off, you black cunt.' So the black men fought to defend themselves.

The four black men were definite that their attackers never identified themselves as policemen.

To substantiate their story, the defence produced a Miss O'Connor, a white woman who had gone to their assistance at the top of the escalator. Mrs O'Connor said that there was no doubt in her mind that the black boys had been assaulted.

When she intervened in their defence, she was told by the police to 'fuck off and mind her own business' and when she persisted, she was arrested, charged with being drunk.

The majority of the jury (ten to two) agreed with the police evidence on these points. All the men were convicted of attempting to rob persons unknown and three were sentenced to two years imprisonment. Griffiths, who is younger, was sent to borstal. All four men were also convicted of various assault charges on the railway policemen, identified themselves as policemen.

ON 28 JUNE, "Darkus" Howe, a Black Panther M.P. defendant in the Mangrove trial, was a picket outside in solidarity with those in the Oval House above.

A member of the local police was later identified as Mr O'Hara, the educational consultant who was complimentary about the peaceful picketers. Also Mackintosh who dressed in police uniform and dragged to their Bailey. A crowd of around thirty were who are you going to arrest him for doing?
The four blacks (left to right): Starling Christie, Winston Trew, Constantine Boucher, George Griffiths

Winston Trew told the court that he had deliberately chosen times for his 'confessions' which fitted in with shifts on which he could do the work. For instance, he had confessed to a mugging offence at 10.50 on a Thursday morning, because he knew that on that day he had collected his unemployment pay.

Duress

George Griffiths complained that he had been punched in the eye by the policemen at the police station, and his eye had been badly injured. Sergeant Riddick's report, admitting Griffiths at the tube station, but no blood was found at the tube station where the fight took place.

The jury acquitted all the men of all charges arising from their so-called 'confessions' in the police station.

For these acquittals there is only one explanation. The jury thought that the police were lying. If, as the policemen stated, the confessions were made freely and voluntarily, there were no grounds for acquittal. The acquittals meant that the confessions were not made freely or voluntarily: that they were made under duress.

Judge Cussen told the jury in his summing up: "You may well come to the conclusion that it seems an incredible coincidences that not one officer on duty at Kennington Lane that night heard these men being beaten, or, if they did, that they did nothing about it."

What Judge Cussen did not tell the jury was that Kennington Lane had been at the centre of a number of other cases of alleged mugging of black people by policemen.

In August 1970, for instance, scores of Kennington Lane police officers claimed to have been attacked by black youths in the area. The police story was that he had resisted arrest and touched his pouch, which the police thought might have contained a weapon.

Coles' story was that he refused to be searched without an independent witness. His wife went to get help (a Mrs Morgan arrived, and was promptly charged with having a policeman's arm). Thirty policemen, some from Kennington Lane, arrived on the scene, and one of them, a Detective Sutherland, bent Cole's thumb back until it snapped.

Coles' appeal against conviction and sentence was turned down by the Court of Appeal on 10 October. The court claims that two years was a fair sentence because Cole had a record of violence.

This consisted of one charge of 'assaulting behaviour' at a Vietnam demonstration. These examples are not exceptions. They are part of the everyday lives of black men and women in South London. The South East London Group of the National Council of Civil Liberties pamphlet, Race Relations and the Police in South East London, and the Greenwhich and Lewisham Case-Con pamphlet, Points of Concern: Police and Black Workers, list scores of cases of police mugging. The truth is known to least numbers of black youths in the area: that while the press are terrifying their middle-class readers with tales of terror in the rich streets of London, something more serious and horrifying is going on unreported in the poor streets.

The police responsible are the guardians of order.

RACIALISM IN BRITAIN

"To many blacks in our cities, police harassment has become a way of life. The police are viewed as the army of the enemy, which is the immigration- controlling, arms-to-South Africa-selling, friend-of-Ian-Smith British government."

Price 40p, plus 5p postage

ALSO

The Rise of Enoch Powell

BY PAUL POOL

Price 20p, plus 5p postage

to 840x1189.0

The people responsible are the guards of order.

RACIALISM IN BRITAIN

"To many blacks in our cities, police harassment has become a way of life. The police are viewed as the army of the enemy, which is the immigration- controlling, arms-to-South Africa-selling, friend-of-Ian-Smith British government."

Price 40p, plus 5p postage

ALSO

The Rise of Enoch Powell

BY PAUL POOL

Price 20p, plus 5p postage

ORGANISED VIOLENCE THAT IS THE STATE

Powerless

There are, of course, exceptions. If the law is to be effective, if it is to be enforceable, it must be capable of being enforced. The law is not a social contract, a social agreement, a social bargain. It is a social relationship, a social order.

The law is the means by which the state seeks to control the behaviour of its citizens. It is the means by which the state seeks to maintain order and stability. It is the means by which the state seeks to control the distribution of resources. It is the means by which the state seeks to control the allocation of power.

The law is not a social contract, a social agreement, a social bargain. It is a social relationship, a social order.

The law is not a social contract, a social agreement, a social bargain. It is a social relationship, a social order.
Chaplin with a red flag
by Laurie Flynn

A prison stretch as leader of the unemployed and communist agitator follows, occasioned by Charlie being found in possession of a red flag, actually a red marker which fell from the back of a lorry and which Charlie was trying to return.

Later in the film, he is again arrested for an assault on the forces of the state. This time Charlie is in work. His master and he have all about them the return to get a little nearer to the workers and the police appear to disperse the strikers from outside the plant. They push the peaceful if defiant Charlie around. He stumbles on to a plank which catapults another smaller piece of wood on to a policeman's head. He's a real strike leader— and is again imprisoned.

This hints at the very essence of Chaplin's greatness, the simplicity of his humour and its jocularity. He is a very early serious film, an attempt to help an audience drawing independent conclusions about their own lives through their tears of joy.

END PIECE

TENANTS' ASSOCIATION meeting on an estate in a Northern town. The occasion to this time is only now beginning to swell around the theme of the housing shortage. There has been a lot of discussion about the size of houses, the amount of space, the distance between tenants across the various council estates, and the adequacy of housing. The council allows a tenant to present this matter of the week, which can be used as an opening line. Perhaps this is to be a campaign to get people together for the rent fight against the rent rise next year.

But we can't be sure even of the uncomplicated—all the things that couldn't snowball, especially if the council talked.

Two things are striking about this moment, the number of experienced trade unionists who have been attracted to this meeting and the tasks of organizing for street by street, in contrast to many tenants' gatherings in the past with the support of other socialists (whose activities have been monitored by the security of this estate) would have been recorded.

The 15-man estate organization (one of the several) that the IS is staffed with are putting the latest issue of this paper is bought but present, some of us can remember the days when we stood outside meetings.

I REMEMBER a good student friend called Geoff Owen, who, when I was in the film industry, used to take Party literature, provide us with the occasional spot cash for political ends, and help in spreading political analysis. Everybody accepted his place there and won the right for us. The IS bloc is stood five pints by this week, and the latest issue of this paper is bought but present, some of us can remember the days when we stood outside meetings.

Peter Sedgwick

THE WAR GONE FROM THE COLD

The fifth episode of Colditz has just tumbled its way off our screens (BBC-1, 9.25pm, Thursdays).

The publicity for the series was extensive. Clearly a few shrews were being woken up, not second rate, it's not too difficult to work out when Little Grove means us to cull our existential longings.

The first scene on real film trailers popped up after the News and sat were parachuted in and would be the audience ratings.

Two of these animals have been spotted during the past three years: David McCullagh, late Man from Uncle, has dropped his Russian accent for a slightly manic Scots and now seems to pass his time in literary contemplation on his book about how he is going to make it back to the Old Country.

Last week Robert OK, you've never heard of him but he is married to Natalie Wood) Wagner turned up, why is the series out? Reawakening of interest in the war... young people looking for alternative backing in old ladies... time when we stood together... serious look at what really has happened... radical re-assessment... not all German and Allied strikes...

The Americans have their Wild West, the Russians a film filmology through the later works of Eisenstein (Alexander Nevsky, Ivan the Terrible), the two super-powers have created their myth worlds to play out their dreams and nightmares. The British, as many critics have pointed out, got lumbered. We couldn't match Hollywood's money, not enough of Europe's greatest movies (the continent was protected by language from the full flood of the American's highly professional mass-produced movies).

So Britain's documentary's, produced firstly by that cultural hot-bed of the BBC, the Crown Film Unit. It was this tradition of that provided a base for the stream of black-and-white war films about Anthony Steely digging holes and doing a job that dominated the British film industry in the early 1950s.

I spent most of my childhood in the picture houses and the cinema. I was a prisoner of war camps, a viral, dreaming world of the Middle East for much of the British public and for most of the industry. You could live a decent life in that dream world of prisoners of war camps, or, for variety, drooping bullies knocked down by the brave, damp old men (been over the Moon lately).

Now the war did have a very real

Nigel Fountain

on COLDITZ

meaning for a large number of people, but was it a time when people really did care, did work together, did even believe that they were somehow going to create a better world out of the war? Plenty of people looking for above our notice.

But the war films of the 1950s were interested in being about the war. The heroes of those films were all from the same social class, the upper-middle. The worker (whose name was John Mills) played a role similar to that of the black in American films. While the darkies were singing low in Hollywood, the worker was doing the hokey-cokey in Pinewood.

ILLICIT

Only in the past five years have I realized that most of the airmen who went to obliterate and was obliterated over Europe came from working and lower-middle-class backgrounds. They were flier stuntmen, not flight stuntmen, and not Eton.

The return to Britain's cinematic dreamland of the small screen was heralded by Granada's Family at War, now being the sixth after the BBC. This was the real war, ill, lull and a bit of sex on the side, occasional(rocess, the success of all, booming overseas sales and big ratings.

The real war has been followed by Pattersons, where real actors imitate the best, to the delight of the professionals escaping from smoulder- ing hovel of Fascist bomber mock-ups. And now Colditz! A return to the centre of the dream.

COLDITZ: going down the drain with the BBC

Hints were dropped during the first episode. A discussion on 'politics' lasted about four seconds. 'Politics' don't matter, let's get down to the job at hand. The film was about a balance of payments crisis, we're all decent Brits anyway. This is actually in contrast with the mood of the 1950s, when politics didn't matter because all politicians were bastards anyway, so make the money and get out.

Characterisation in the 1970s TV Colditz is different to the 1950s film because we are in a different world now. The film could then be used to create a fantasy about an apparently secure ruling class banking in a new 'Elizabethan Age'. Now, in post-'Becking Britain, Colditz covers a wider class range because, stupid as they may be, our rulers no longer believe that Anthony Steely can make it on his own— even assiduously by Corporal J Mills.
The Union's curious case of the 350 miners' ballot papers

by a Yorkshire miner

ONE of the heroes of the recent News of the World series, 'The Strife Makers', is Councillor Jack Smart, the 51-year-old elected Member of Parliament, who is also National Yorkshire Agent for the National Union of Mineworkers. He has been a member of an organisation called the Yorkshire Association of Labour Miners - a group of elected officials dedicated to stemming the tide of militant extremists, which he concedes to be a threat to NUM democracy.

To a News of the World reporter, Smart said: "We want miners to take an interest in union activities." Noble sentiments. Therefore, following Smart's advice, a number of NUM members have been taking a close interest in the activities of the Wigan-based "Wigan league" - a group that had been playing a leading role in organising the first miners' strike this year. Even this was an extremely controversial measure, according to Smart. The miners went on strike to protest against the sacking of Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire Association of Labour Miners' Secretary, and to protest against the leadership's stance on the issue of the NUM's support for a "New Deal".

Present

Smart's participation at this time was rather more passive. While Scargill took the pickets to the power stations, Smart was busy meeting with the local press and the miners' families, trying to find out what the situation was. He was also consulted by the local police, and given a general overview of the situation.

The miners' strike was by far the biggest in the country's history, and it was a very heavily publicised event. The miners demanded a substantial increase in their wages, a cut in working hours, and an end to the practice of sacking miners for participating in union activities. The NUM leadership was divided on the issue, and the miners' decision to strike led to a series of major strikes in the country.

Heat

Bill O'Brien and Jack Smart are very well known figures in the mining industry. O'Brien is a former MP, and Smart is a former councillor for Knottingley. Their mines lie close together, and they serve on the same local government committees and numerous other organisations. However, their opinions on the issue remain divided.

A meeting of the miners was held in Knottingley, and during the meeting, O'Brien was elected chairman. When asked what the miners should do, O'Brien said: "We need to get back to work, and to start building a brighter future for our families." Smart, on the other hand, was more cautious, and said: "I am concerned about the safety of our members, and I would like to see a more gradual approach to the issue." The miners eventually voted to continue the strike for another week.

The miners' strike was eventually called off, and the NUM and the miners reached a settlement. O'Brien and Smart have both praised the miners' efforts, and have urged the union to continue to support the miners in their struggle for better conditions.

The end of the miners' strike was also marked by a series of rallies and demonstrations, with O'Brien and Smart both giving speeches. O'Brien said: "The miners have shown the world that they are not afraid to stand up for their rights." Smart, on the other hand, said: "I am proud of the miners' efforts, and I am looking forward to a brighter future for the union and for the miners."
R WILLIAMS' letter about Fine Tubes and the AUEW executive of Fine Tube is a complete whitewash of the executive's activities over Fine Tubes.

No one is suggesting that the rules be ignored by the executive, and it is true that under rule 29, clause 9, discussion benefits can only be paid for 52 weeks. Bro. Williams does point out that under this rule benevolent grants could be paid. Well, why aren't they?

Further, rule 15, clause 8 empowers the executive to hold a national ballot to authorise the raising of levies to assist any effort to improve the position of the union or the workforce. This is a wide rule which could lead to a decision taken to determine to beat the Fine Tubes management.

But Bro. Williams is right when he says there is a problem, of course at Fine Tubes, there is a refusal to meet, to stop production, and thereby offer the management a solution to the problem of the workers.

WASTING
What I mean by leadership, Bro. Williams is quite simply—when our members at Fine Tubes are faced with a number of factory organisations that are continually involved in negotiating with management, then as was said at the Birmingham conference, Hugh Scaddon should be there at the factory gate explaining and winning the workers to our side instead of wasting his time at Downley as more recently Buckingham Palace.

Bro. Williams raises the problem of the Fine Tube executive not being able to win a district levy for the Fine Tube workers. Yet, as one can't blame the executive for that, I do. The South West area is very backward and it is as far as trade unionism is concerned. To expect the rank and file membership to have any influence on the executive is quite unrealistic. If there is no visible campaign by the executive in support of the workers, then the executive at Fine Tube how do you expect the workers of Plymouth to do it?

OUTRAGEOUS
If the executive was to support the Plymouth District by having district meetings, campaign for support, then I'm sure the ballot would be victorious. It is quite outrageous if any trade union official to blame all the problems on to a weak rank and file.

Hope that in taking up some of Bro. Williams' points, it will help take action there. I appeal to all AUEW members to help the Plymouth executive. It is not only an attack on the executive but also the executive to the members. It is a question of being connected with a national campaign of the executive and local meetings and explaining the two year battle at Fine Tubes and winning the national rank and file campaign. I hope the executive at Fine Tube can support a national executive to win that war.

The late Bernard Ford is yet another victim of capitalism and its barbaric system. I agree. But what about the working-class? And his relatives?

Their feelings it appears, have been understated. So that Socialist Worker can be brave and publish or be damned. If, one, does not want to kill people, watch them die at the hands of self-appointed amateurs after they have been killed. Perhaps the Socialist Worker can explain what the rank and file organisations are doing to make the difference between the hands of the state and others.

Letters are welcome on all subjects of man's performance in the class movement. They must arrive first Monday, latest, the day before the paper goes to press. We do not accept letters in excess of 200 words.

The DAILY MIRROR is still desperately trying to maintain its reputation and pride as the scourge of humbug, yet it all too often bogs itself down these days than any other national newspaper, including the Express.

Large numbers of its readers have decided to turn the page, for it is a relief, albeit a simplistic and ineffective one, to laugh at the Mirror's tiresome potting of the Mirror in its obvious decline.

Observers of Fleet Street must feel that the Mirror's troubles have not in any way prepared its readers for the death of a paper that has never been more apparent than in the Mirror's reaction to Heath's 30-day pay freeze.

BLOUNDERING
Following its habit of supplementing its front page news with a8 inch letterhead, the Mirror came out with one of its 'wonderful' letters under the heading WHAT ELSE COULD HEATH DO? WELL, WE ASKED FOR IT.

The question in the headline is a pathetic attempt by the Mirror to give its page the air of a front page story, and the result is a failure of my own, in ideas. In the past, the Mirror must have realised, on occasions, that it had both. Although its reputation was tarnished by its own self-promotion and public relations techniques, the Mirror did speak out boldly in support of social justice and against the hypocrisy of the Mirror. Now it is part of that hypocrisy and elicits, absorbed and amended by the system, nourishing it and loving every minute of it.

The Mirror failed to constitute a voluntary pact between the unions, the employers and the government—failed because the unions felt unable to agree, commented the 'wonderful' letter.

So much for the swashbuckling Daily Mirror. Churchill and the Mirror sat quite content at the waste of national blood. It now seems at the feet of Gromer Heath.

The Mirror's 'wonder' continued. The Heath government has neither frozen wages nor prices at the expense of its own personal and political consideration and help to those most in need.

Then, simply over the page, it was valued. "Heath's policies will be battered by the lack of control over fresh food prices." Even the Sun told its readers: "Don't be disheartened by the fresh food prices," But the Mirror simply records those policies will be battered by the lack of control over fresh food prices.

Scandalous
What the Mirror did not spell out was the large number of price rises in home and away, which has come about as a result of ruthless growth of the farms. If it had, it might have seen some of its readers on the scandalous way in which the government has been conned by big business and its conniving farming. But it is a scandal.

The sub-editor 'wonder' for this article has only been paid for this work, but it is a scandal, the proverbs it’s paper died by scrutinising its own

RON KNOWLES

Bedfellows
YOUR report on solidarity strikes in the East Midlands (11 November), where corporate employers are making of racial and non-racial tactics effective increases profits, clarify the essential need for class solidarity in the face of capitalist oppression.

Further, notice the report on the new British Steel Corporation in South Africa by making of the industrial system a contradiction. In the steel industry, together with the National Intelligence Act, the Tomlinson Act, all have this done. This is far from the British Steel Corporation has similar plans (KRAA). The needs of the steel industry are far from the British Steel Corporation has similar plans (KRAA) in South Africa.

An anti-racist call is no longer enough. The call for unity and solidarity is far more important than ever before. Whether it is a 'liberal' or 'Fowellian' it is to be thankful.

TOBY WESTALL, Romford, Essex.

French left and unions
YOUR REPORT on the industrial conference organised by Lutte Ouvriére and the PSU in France two weeks ago cannot be ignored.

You stated that the PSU was for "political tendencies" in the unions. In fact the PSU is very much against those political tendencies in the unions. It was Lutte Ouvriere that threatened and for the right to form political tendencies and this was one of the main debates between them and the PSI.

It is easy to see why the PSI takes this line. The PSI believes that "reform" and revolutionary work are complementary. It is a fact that the PSI delegation of 350 (compared to the PSU delegation of 600) Furthermore, it has been done by far the largest group of manual workers.

This meeting is an important breakthrough in the struggle to win over the mass of French workers, and it is important that you get the facts right. — JR, Paris.

That radical Mirror image starts to crack...

Perhaps Mirror readers are not expected to eat meat, fish, poultry, fruit, vegetables, alcohol and anything else out of a can, and that might explain why the paper's readers are obsessed with what is in their minds.

The Mirror did not respond to a request from the Daily Mirror to comment on its own back page: the Mirror’s readers must be convinced that the Mirror’s readers have a right to expect that the Mirror do not print lies and that the Mirror do not print lies.

Besides the bloody 1,200,000 will be spending their extra on new Mercedes and Audi, and in another day, the Mirror will be paying for their new phones.

Ronald W. — TONY WESTALL

ON THE FIRST DAY of the freeze, I doffed my telephone to the official of the Department of Trade and Industry. I mentioned that day the day the price of essential goods. The Committee's famous makers of the啦啦啦, the price, has risen by 40 since yesterday. The government was not reacting to that situation with the appropriate measures. I have not received any increase—"It is simply not enough to give a rise," says the paper.

You say any C/S law, graduated to the extent of making it difficult to have the right to union. I do not think it is. The fact that there are those whose rights cannot be put into a position where there needs to be a shareholder to afford the right to union. — K. DAVIES, Brighton, Sussex.

ON THE FIRST DAY of the freeze, I doffed my telephone to the official of the Department of Trade and Industry. I mentioned that day the day the price of essential goods. The Committee's famous makers of the啦啦啦, the price, has risen by 40 since yesterday. The government was not reacting to that situation with the appropriate measures. I have not received any increase—"It is simply not enough to give a rise," says the paper.

You say any C/S law, graduated to the extent of making it difficult to have the right to union. I do not think it is. The fact that there are those whose rights cannot be put into a position where there needs to be a shareholder to afford the right to union. — K. DAVIES, Brighton, Sussex.

How to get round the freeze
ON THE FIRST DAY of the freeze, I doffed my telephone to the official of the Department of Trade and Industry. I mentioned that day the day the price of essential goods. The Committee's famous makers of the啦啦啦, the price, has risen by 40 since yesterday. The government was not reacting to that situation with the appropriate measures. I have not received any increase—"It is simply not enough to give a rise," says the paper.

You say any C/S law, graduated to the extent of making it difficult to have the right to union. I do not think it is. The fact that there are those whose rights cannot be put into a position where there needs to be a shareholder to afford the right to union. — K. DAVIES, Brighton, Sussex.
The man who was sacked by a kangaroo court...

by Dave Poers

PART of the window-dressing of the Industrial Relations Act that has given it an appeal for some workers is the protection it seems to offer against the tyranny of undemocratic organisations.

In particular, it has an attraction for victims of the bureaucracy of the General and Municipal Workers’ Union.

But the case of John Carling shows just how inadequate such protection is.

An industrial tribunal last week dismissed the appeal of John Carling, a South Shields docker, that he had been unfairly barred from holding office of GMWU branch secretary. John was twice elected secretary of the docks branch, and on both occasions his election was declared invalid under the provisions of the Act by Mr. C. Cunningham.

He would have been elected a third time if regional organiser John Derrick had not persuaded a section of the membership that their votes would be wasted if they again voted for him.

John Carling’s case was based on section 65 of the Act, which states: “No member of the organisation, or any branch or section of the organisation shall, by way of any arbitrary or unreasonable discrimination, be excluded from being a candidate for, or holding any office in the organisation or in a branch or section of it.”

Refuse

The tribunal admitted that Carling was wrongly barred from office the first time he was elected as docks branch secretary in 1970, but the regional committee were quick to close this loophole in the rulebook.

Rule 37 was amended at the following congress on a motion by Mr. C. Cunningham, to give a regional committee power to bar sacked secretaries from any other union office.

Rule 37 (12) now enables a regional committee to remove from union office anyone who is unfairly barred from further union office as a) by a member of the regional committee, or b) by the National Committee, or c) by a member of the National Committee. In addition, rule 37 (13) gives a regional committee the right to bar a member of the regional committee from further union office.

It was obvious that the tribunal had no problem on their hands. It would not have helped the government with its talk of the TUC if the Act was used to alter the rulebook of a major union. Their dilemma is reflected in the fact that it took a fortnight for the tribunal to announce their verdict.

Somehow the circle had to be squared, and this is how it was done. In the interim, the Act’s eyes are declared: “The rule in question appears to the majority to be a perfectly reasonable rule when the structure of this particular union is taken into account. (My emphasis.) The committee will ask another rule this rule will work in an acceptable way if, and only if, those who operate it behave reasonably and honestly.”

Or in plain English, it is perfectly OK to have undemocratic rules providing that the structure of the union is also undemocratic. 

The trouble is that any GMWU who want to restore control in the union back to the members face a long uphill struggle. They will find no assistance from the Industrial Relations Act and its courts.

Corrupt

When I spoke to John Carling and his workmates on the quayside at South Shields they were bitterly angry at the corruption and fraud by which they who run the union had chalked up another victory over the rank and file. Their opinions of Andy Cunningham and his docks organiser were hardly suitable for a family newspaper.

Another battle has been lost, the war goes on.

The lead factory, seen from one of the council flats - how near can you get?

Fine Tubes blacked

The GKN-Sankey factory at Billiton on the outskirts of Plymouth is to stop production of fine tubes, Plymouth. This management decision, the result of pressure from workers to black all work going to the Plymouth firm, is one of a 5-year struggle for trade union rights.

And Foulard Transport, Southend, has written to the Fine Tubes Strike Committee saying that it will cease to have dealings with the firm.

The crucial decision results from a tour of the North by two members of the General Sankey and Sankey Group. Frank Clark and Brian Perry. They have talked to union members in the union district committees as well as the GKN Strike Committee, and have urged all political action to back up the Fine Tubes committees in their struggles against trade union blacklisting.

The GKN sales manager’s letter to the Fine Tubes Strike Committee:

"The Birmingham Fine Tubes Factory is one of your member’s problems. I am told all the difference, everywhere Brian and I have been we have said that had they been to the conference or board reports would have been more detailed than ever to get the truth out."
**Analysis of the struggle against the Tories and the bosses**

**CHRYSLER 4000 WIN SACKING REVERSAL**

**COVENTRY:** John Worthington is the man at the centre of the Chrysler Stoke dispute. He is 36 years old, 11 of them spent as a steward, eight as a steward and finally as a foreman. His job is now to catch the engines of the company in the management of its workforce.

"It was all rather sudden," he said. "On Saturday morning, the company announced the closure of the plant. We were called in to the management. They told us about the redundancies, which were the last in a series of redundancies that have been announced in recent weeks."

"After the announcement, we met with the company officials to discuss our compensation. We were offered a package that would cover our redundancy, but we rejected it. We are now on strike against the company's decision."

**INCREDALE**

"On Monday we had just announced our plans, when I was called into the management office. They told me that the company was closing, and that I would have to stay out of town for a while."

"I was surprised, but I accepted. The company officials told me that I would be able to return to my work once the plant reopens."

**Victimised militant now faces union 'charges'**

**LONDON:** On Monday charges under union rules will be heard against John Lawrence, the victimised father of the chapel (shop steward), and 12 other members of the NUS Association committee for calling a stoppage of work without the consent of the union executive. The charges will lead to the rule of the NUS Association, which received the support of the NUS Executive.

"I am resigning from the NUS Association, which I have supported for many years," Mr. Lawrence said. "I have been victimised, and I will not continue to support the NUS Association until the situation is resolved."
Tenants sent eviction notices

KIRKBY—The authorities have made their first attempt to beat resistance to the rent increases on Merseyside, where four areas, Fazakerley, Over, Lowton, and Teneriffe, are on total rent strike, and the rest are refusing to pay the increases.

On Monday the Labour council in Kirkby served eviction notices on several tenants on the Tower Hill estate. Six of the notices had four weeks to run. But one, to the secretary of the tenants' association, Tony Boyle, who works on the production line at Massey Ferguson, expired at 4.30 on Monday afternoon.

There could hardly be a clearer case of deliberate victimisation.

Blocked

The tenants responded with an immediate protest demonstration. Hundreds blocked the main road past the estate for more than an hour at the time the notice was due to expire.

Mass meetings of local council promised to ensure that Tony, his wife and his four-year-old daughter are protected from eviction. A dozen or so tenants are staying in nearby houses.

On Monday, stewards from the Birds Eye cold store in Kirkby offered support and building workers from a nearby site joined in the demonstration.

All the local trade councils and the Kirkby stewards' committee have agreed a policy of taking industrial action the moment any attempt is made to evict any tenants because of the rent strike.

SOME of the 2000 marchers who took part in the Anti-Inflammary League protest in London last weekend. The rally called for the release of all Irish political prisoners and the removal of all British troops from Ireland.

Four-hour sit-in protests against the wage freeze

WEST LONDON—In the first political protest against the Tory government's wage freeze, workers at the Anchor Freezer Plant in Feltham staged a four-hour sit-in last week, when management broke off negotiations on a pay claim.

The shop stewards' negotiating committee are told there is no point continuing the talks over a rise due on 1 January because of the wage freeze. The week before, stewards had turned down a miserly £2 offer from management with no concessions on holidays or hours.

An emergency meeting of 2000 workers decided to sit in at the machines until Monday and come out with a positive statement about money, which they said should be paid up 1 December.

HOSPITAL manual workers, the invisible porters, technicians, cleaners, cooks and telephonists who keep the National Health Service going are in revolt.

These underpaid and under-recognised health workers have been muttering and complaining for years—and quietly organizing.

This time, however, they are putting themselves in the front line of the fight against the freeze.

And last weekend, under the shadow of government threats to fire any cold-shoulder strikers, the most militant and representative gathering yet of rank-and-file hospital trade unionists called on their unions to organize the first national strike in hospital history. They gave advance warning of their union negotiation that they would reject any compromise short of a 35% increase, a 35-hour week, four weeks' holiday, and equal pay for all the main women hospital workers.

WALK-OUT

The conference, called by the London Area of the Hospital Joint Council (LASJP), was attended by branch secretaries and stewards from more than 40 hospitals, including delegations from Liverpool, Manchester, Chester, Bristol, Gloucester, Bournemouth and the Isle of Than.

It had been called to keep up the momentum started by the spontaneous walk-out by Bristol hospital workers and hospital workers' demonstrations on 14 December. It was to consider the possibility of stopping and demonstrations on 27 November.

The hospital workers' mood is better.

For years their claims have followed the lines of the settlements between local authorities and the municipal workers. This has kept them in the very bottom of the wages league. But now they are roused by the freeze and don't even get this increase.

Mark Palmer, secretary of LASJP, and a hospital telephonist, told Social Worker: 'People who work in hospitals do not understand why they should enjoy the contact with people. But our representatives have to go and have to keep us on low pay. And our own unions are the same.'

UNOFFICIAL

A woman worker in a sterile supply depot, responsible for packing and sterilising dressing and equipment, is on a 12-hour strike to improve her pay. Her pay is £4 14s. and she is earning £4 15s. An inflationary worker who has been infected dressing, used scalpels, needles and syringes, winter, with most sympathy, get £7 14s.

The hospital workers' walk-out of the management side of the hospital services negotiating body by the British Medical Association, on 22 December, 27 December and 6 January, after they were overlooked for recognition for the Public Employers' Bargaining Council.

The workers in the conference have realised that they are on the front line, and they need to improve their present abnormal pay and conditions. The present situation is far from good enough.

There are reports that the shop stewards at Longton Hospital from the Littlemore Mental Hospital are going to break the freeze by paying them the princely sum of 8p an hour.

SOUTHAMPTON—1700orry drivers decided to return to work on Wednesday morning after hearing that a splendid steward had been sacked for striking. Former Phillips was sacked for striking to win a bus fare for the men regarded as inadequately secured.

Management has now agreed that in future drivers will have the right not to return.

The real importance of the dispute is that this has raised the strength of trade union organisation among lorry drivers in an area where it had been non-existent.

Management seem to have picked on Norwich Phillips to break the other men's resolve. The Sab currently has 800 unemployed metalworkers. No one else in the area gives us 800 unemployed metalworkers. No one else in the area has 800 unemployed metalworkers.